Church of Brethren Collects Funds for Defense of Eight

The Church of the Brethren is collecting funds for the defense of the eight defendants in the alleged conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and blow up tunnels under federal buildings here.

Denomination officials said they were collecting the funds because one of the eight defendants, Theodore Glick, 22, is a member of the Church of the Brethren.

"We have Ted's word that he is innocent and we believe him," said the Rev. Wilbur Mullen, draft counselor for the Brotherhood World Ministries Commission of the denomination at its national headquarters in Elgin, Ill.

But he conceded that the officials went through an "agonizing process" in order to make the decision to receive funds for the defense.

The Church of the Brethren has traditionally been a "peace church" whose members easily obtain conscientious objector status.

Partly under the guidance of young Glick, who burnt his draft card at the 1969 national meeting of the church, in 1970 the Brethren pledged their support to persons who choose "open noncooperation with the system of noncooperation . . ."

When Glick was indicted and later sentenced for raiding federal offices in Rochester, N.Y., in September 1969, the Church of the Brethren refused to assist in his defense.

"But now he says he's innocent and we'll support him," said Mr. Mullen, who stressed that the national office is "collecting, not soliciting" for the defense fund.

Elaborating on why the church has gotten involved in the defense, Mr. Mullen said, "He had been exposed, you see, to the biblical teachings of our church about the war. Now we need to stick with him."

Glick was released from prison in September after serving several months for the Rochester break-in. He was named a defendant in the Harrisburg case in a second indictment that named additional defendants and changed the charges to a general conspiracy that included raids on draft offices. It also reduced possible sentences.

Filming Set On 2 Draft Protesters

Religious News Service

NEW YORK—The story of two former Maryknoll missioners who later took part in the draft board raid of the "Catonsville Nine" will be filmed by Warner Brothers, with Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland portraying Marjorie and Thomas Melville.

The movie will be based on the experience of the couple when both were missionaries in Guatemala—Melville as a priest and his wife as a nun.

Based on their book, Whose Heaven, Whose Earth? (Alfred A. Knopf), the film is slated to begin production next spring in Latin America.

The Melvilles, ousted from Guatemala because of their association with rebel leaders, married and later joined the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, the Rev. Phillip Berrigan and four others in the burning of Selective Service records at Catonsville, Md. Both served prison sentences.